

Ofc. of Postsecondary Educ., Education

§ 602.1

FFEL loans the lender plans to offer pursuant to that preferred lender arrangement for the next award year.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1845-XXXX)

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1019a(b) and 1019b(b))

PART 602—THE SECRETARY'S RECOGNITION OF ACCREDITING AGENCIES

Subpart A—General

Sec.

602.1 Why does the Secretary recognize accrediting agencies?

602.2 How do I know which agencies the Secretary recognizes?

602.3 What definitions apply to this part?

Subpart B—The Criteria for Recognition

BASIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

602.10 Link to Federal programs.

602.11 Geographic scope of accrediting activities.

602.12 Accrediting experience.

602.13 Acceptance of the agency by others.

ORGANIZATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

602.14 Purpose and organization.

602.15 Administrative and fiscal responsibilities.

REQUIRED STANDARDS AND THEIR APPLICATION

602.16 Accreditation and preaccreditation standards.

602.17 Application of standards in reaching an accrediting decision.

602.18 Ensuring consistency in decision-making.

602.19 Monitoring and reevaluation of accredited institutions and programs.

602.20 Enforcement of standards.

602.21 Review of standards.

REQUIRED OPERATING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

602.22 Substantive change.

602.23 Operating procedures all agencies must have.

602.24 Additional procedures certain institutional accreditors must have.

602.25 Due process.

602.26 Notification of accrediting decisions.

602.27 Other information an agency must provide the Department.

602.28 Regard for decisions of States and other accrediting agencies.

Subpart C—The Recognition Process

APPLICATION AND REVIEW BY DEPARTMENT STAFF

602.30 Activities covered by recognition procedures.

602.31 Agency submissions to the Department.

602.32 Procedures for Department review of applications for recognition or for change in scope, compliance reports, and increases in enrollment.

602.33 Procedures for review of agencies during the period of recognition.

REVIEW BY THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONAL QUALITY AND INTEGRITY

602.34 Advisory Committee meetings.

602.35 Responding to the Advisory Committee's recommendation.

REVIEW AND DECISION BY THE SENIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL

602.36 Senior Department official's decision.

APPEAL RIGHTS AND PROCEDURES

602.37 Appealing the senior Department official's decision to the Secretary.

602.38 Contesting the Secretary's final decision to deny, limit, suspend, or terminate an agency's recognition.

Subpart D—Department Responsibilities

602.50 What information does the Department share with a recognized agency about its accredited institutions and programs?

AUTHORITY: 20 U.S.C. 1099b, unless otherwise noted.

SOURCE: 64 FR 56617, Oct. 20, 1999, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General

§ 602.1 Why does the Secretary recognize accrediting agencies?

(a) The Secretary recognizes accrediting agencies to ensure that these agencies are, for the purposes of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), or for other Federal purposes, reliable authorities regarding the quality of education or training offered by the institutions or programs they accredit.

(b) The Secretary lists an agency as a nationally recognized accrediting agency if the agency meets the criteria for

§ 602.2

34 CFR Ch. VI (7–1–11 Edition)

recognition listed in subpart B of this part.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099b)

§ 602.2 How do I know which agencies the Secretary recognizes?

(a) Periodically, the Secretary publishes a list of recognized agencies in the FEDERAL REGISTER, together with each agency's scope of recognition. You may obtain a copy of the list from the Department at any time. The list is also available on the Department's web site.

(b) If the Secretary denies continued recognition to a previously recognized agency, or if the Secretary limits, suspends, or terminates the agency's recognition before the end of its recognition period, the Secretary publishes a notice of that action in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The Secretary also makes the reasons for the action available to the public, on request.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099b)

§ 602.3 What definitions apply to this part?

The following definitions apply to this part:

Accreditation means the status of public recognition that an accrediting agency grants to an educational institution or program that meets the agency's standards and requirements.

Accrediting agency or *agency* means a legal entity, or that part of a legal entity, that conducts accrediting activities through voluntary, non-Federal peer review and makes decisions concerning the accreditation or preaccreditation status of institutions, programs, or both.

Act means the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

Adverse accrediting action or *adverse action* means the denial, withdrawal, suspension, revocation, or termination of accreditation or preaccreditation, or any comparable accrediting action an agency may take against an institution or program.

Advisory Committee means the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity.

Branch campus means a location of an institution that meets the definition of branch campus in 34 CFR 600.2.

Compliance report means a written report that the Department requires an agency to file to demonstrate that the agency has addressed deficiencies specified in a decision letter from the senior Department official or the Secretary.

Correspondence education means:

(1) Education provided through one or more courses by an institution under which the institution provides instructional materials, by mail or electronic transmission, including examinations on the materials, to students who are separated from the instructor.

(2) Interaction between the instructor and the student is limited, is not regular and substantive, and is primarily initiated by the student.

(3) Correspondence courses are typically self-paced.

(4) Correspondence education is not distance education.

Designated Federal Official means the Federal officer designated under section 10(f) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. Appdx. 1.

Direct assessment program means an instructional program that, in lieu of credit hours or clock hours as a measure of student learning, utilizes direct assessment of student learning, or recognizes the direct assessment of student learning by others, and meets the conditions of 34 CFR 668.10. For title IV, HEA purposes, the institution must obtain approval for the direct assessment program from the Secretary under 34 CFR 668.10(g) or (h) as applicable. As part of that approval, the accrediting agency must—

(1) Evaluate the program(s) and include them in the institution's grant of accreditation or preaccreditation; and

(2) Review and approve the institution's claim of each direct assessment program's equivalence in terms of credit or clock hours.

Distance education means education that uses one or more of the technologies listed in paragraphs (1) through (4) of this definition to deliver